



Basic Training Information

A/1-19th Field Artillery



6 July, 2016 , CLASS 66-16

FROM THE COMMANDER:

Greetings!

I am CPT Gregory J. Ford, your Soldier's Battery Commander during their Initial Entry Training in the United States Army. Your Soldier arrived safely here at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and began basic combat training in Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion 19th Field Artillery Regiment (A/1-19 FA).

During the nine-week training period, your Soldier will learn the basic skills that are required to survive and win on today's modern battlefield. The training is very strenuous and demanding, but the tasks performed helps each Soldier develop the discipline and self-confidence necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army.

I want you to know that the cadre training your Soldier is a very dedicated group of professionals who are genuinely concerned about the health, welfare and training of each Soldier. We consider your Soldier to be the Army's most important asset and I will personally ensure that we make your Soldier's basic training experience both challenging and rewarding.

YOUR SOLDIER MAY CALL HOME SOON!

You may have received a phone call from your Soldier by now. Within the first 72 hours of physically arriving to Fort Sill, your Soldier is given the opportunity to make a short phone call. I will ensure that your Soldier makes another short phone call, to the person of their choosing, within 48 hours of reporting to Alpha Battery. During the cycle, your Soldier has the opportunity to earn phone privileges during each phase change (about every three weeks). Please know that, although it is rare, this privilege is denied for misconduct or poor performance.

During the duration of Basic Combat Training your soldier is without his or her personal cell phones.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK.

Family and friends are a big part of the Army community and although your loved one cannot call each night to keep you informed of their progress and achievements, I will bridge that gap with frequent updates to the Battery's Facebook page:

If you simply type in "A/1-19 FA BDE" in the search engines "Facebook," "Google" or "Bing," the first result is the Battery Facebook page. Please ensure you understand the rules and regulations when posting remarks on the page.

YOUR SOLDIER WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Whether or not this is your Soldier's first time away from home, I am certain ~~that~~ they miss you a great deal. I strongly encourage you to write at every opportunity, and you can

be assured that your Soldier has ample time to write you as well. When writing your Soldier, use the following address:

Rank Last Name, First Name MI.

A 1/19 FA, Platoon # (Example: 4th PLT), Class 66-16

5970 SOUTH BOUNDARY RD

FORT SILL, OK 73503-5001.

* Abbreviations for US Army ranks are PVT for Private (E-1), PV2 for Private (E-2), PFC for Private First Class (E-3), and SPC for Specialist (E-4). If you do not yet know your loved ones Platoon (PLT#), and or rank, we make an effort to still get them your mail.

Packages are not generally necessary because your Soldier buys additional items here at our local Post Exchange (Store); however, if you choose to send your Soldier a package, please observe the following guidelines:

- ✓ **No alcohol or products containing alcohol (to include mouthwash), tobacco, or narcotics (prescription or over the counter)**
- ✓ **No weapons**
- ✓ **No radios, TVs, cell phones, cameras, or other electronic devices**
- ✓ **No pornographic or morally-questionable materials**
- ✓ **No magazines**
- ✓ **No food items**
- ✓ **Ask your soldier if there are additional items their Drill Sergeant requests you do not send.**

WHAT CAN I DO TO ASSIST MY SOLDIER DURING TRAINING?

The best thing you can do is to write positive letters. Soldiers look forward to daily mail call. Your Soldier is incredibly busy, so even if you do not receive a reply within the first couple of weeks, continue to send positive letters to motivate them until they can reply.

HOW ARE THEY TREATING MY SOLDIER?

I promise your soldier is not reliving those first 30 minutes of the movie, “Full Metal Jacket.” Today's soldiers are treated fairly, firmly, and with dignity and respect. Abuse of any kind is not tolerated. Drill Sergeants are selected from among the best Non-commissioned Officers in the Army, and are highly qualified to train recruits.

MAY MY SOLDIER ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES?

Yes. Soldiers have the opportunity to attend weekly religious services of various denominations. They attend a religious service and religious education classes as available through the Chaplain's office. Soldiers are also permitted to seek counseling from an Army Chaplain who is on call 24 hours a day.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER FAILS A PORTION OF BASIC TRAINING?

If your Soldier misses or fails a task required for graduation, they are given another opportunity to make up the training. If a Soldier still fails to meet the requirement, I decide whether or not that Soldier will graduate.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

Should an emergency arise, the best means of notifying your Soldier is through your local American Red Cross. The field office in your area contacts the Lawton, Oklahoma field office, who contacts me. In extreme cases, such as serious injury or death affecting immediate family members, an emergency leave of absence is granted. Other leaves of absence during training are not normally authorized. You can contact the Red Cross Emergency Call Center at (877)272-7887 24/7 365.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER IS INJURED DURING TRAINING?

Should any injury occur, your Soldier receives appropriate medical attention from Fort Sill's professional medical staff. Additionally, Drill Sergeants are Combat Lifesaver qualified and carry medical aid kits.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

Provided your Soldier meets all basic training requirements, your Soldier graduates at **1000 A.M. on Friday, 9 September 2016, at Cache Creek Chapel** on Ft. Sill, OK. If the location is subject to change, you will be notified in a timely manner. After graduation, your Soldier reports to their next duty station for Advanced Individual Training. In a few weeks, we post another letter on Facebook with information concerning your Soldier's family day and graduation.

Please know that there are some Soldiers who will not graduate due to various reasons. Have a candid conversation with your Soldier prior to making your reservations for lodging in advance.

HOW DO I GET ON FORT SILL?

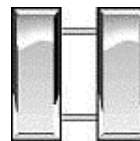
Due to security measures, access to Fort Sill is limited to Department of Defense card holders (The V.A.-issued identification card no longer meets the criteria for installation access) and those individuals who have received a post pass from the Fort Sill Visitor Control Center. Go to <http://sill-www.army.mil/vcc/> for instructions on access to Fort Sill, or go to the Visitor Control Center yourself prior to, to attain a post pass. Failing to do so causes entry to Fort Sill to get delayed and/or denied. Additionally, please circulate this information to other family members and friends who could potentially attend Family Day and Graduation activities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

POINTS OF CONTACT

If you need assistance with anything, please feel free to contact the Chain of Command by email:



Battery First Sergeant
Derrick W. Webb
e-mail: derrick.w.webb4.mil@mail.mil



Battery Commander:
Gregory J. Ford
e-mail: gregory.j.ford3.mil@mail.mil